

-YALE COLLEGE- DEMOCRATS

Testimony of Emma Goldberg
Member, Yale College Democrats

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In favor: H.B. No. 5126
An Act Concerning an Agreement among the States to
Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote

I am a current student at Yale University, and I am writing to urge you to pass the National Popular Vote bill in Connecticut. In a nation that prioritizes egalitarianism, every voter should have an equal ability to influence the political future of our country—no individual should have undue influence over presidential elections simply because of their geographic origins.

Last year I turned eighteen and was able to vote in a presidential election for the first time, a right I was thrilled to exercise. But living on a college campus with roommates who come from across the country—from Texas to California—I witnessed a frustrating phenomenon. Students' interest in the election varied greatly based on the states from which they hailed. Some students felt that the candidates had entirely failed to communicate with their local communities. The Electoral College forces candidates to focus only on "swing states," neglecting states in which they are winning, or have fallen hopelessly behind. It is time to stop abiding by a political tradition that alienates neglected constituents and creates unjust elections.

Aside from the ideological arguments that underlie the National Popular Vote, this bill is also pragmatically sound. Under the popular vote, the chance of costly and contentious recounts will decrease.

Right now, many states are considering "vote rigging" plans that would manipulate the Electoral College. For example, nearby Pennsylvania, which voted 52% for Obama, would have given the President only 35% of its electoral vote. I spent this fall canvassing in Pennsylvania and ensuring constituents had a means of getting to the polls on election day—I want to ensure that these constituents' voices and votes are truly being heard. Connecticut can play a large role in the effort to advance the National Popular Vote, putting the initiative over halfway to success. Your leadership can play a key role in equalizing the political system and conveying to constituents that their states and their votes truly matter.

Sincerely,
Emma Goldberg